



The ASSOCIATION of WINE CELLARMEN

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www.winecellarmen.com

LOCKDOWN DISCOVERIES Part 11, **Wines of the United Kingdom** **6pm, Monday 26th April, via Zoom**

Because of the ongoing pandemic, the Boot & Flogger is still unable to host our indoor tastings. However, there appears to be light at the end of the Covid tunnel. We have prepared a revised schedule for 2021 as below, but of course it is subject to the lifting of hospitality restrictions for indoor group events. In the meantime, we shall hold our next 2021 event as the 11th Zoom tasting on **Monday 26th April 2021**. Our theme will be UK wines, choice completely open.

See below and attached for details on how to join in the fun. Remember, wine tasting is one excellent way of checking for Covid-19 sensory symptoms. Regular sessions are recommended.

Topic: AWC - **UK Wines**

Time: **Apr 26, 2021 06:00 PM** London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://ankura.zoom.us/j/82782466040?pwd=eXpCcStrT3NodzhaUWNqS3NGQlJDDz09>

Meeting ID: 827 8246 6040

Passcode: 133214

Dial by your location: +44 131 460 1196 United Kingdom

Provisional 2021 events –

30/06/21	CHAMPAGNE CELEBRATION marking our return to New Normal
24/07/21	SUMMER SOCIAL
06/09/21	ANNUAL A.W.C. BLIND TASTING
04/10/21	NOUGHTIE CLARET (as prepared for March 2020 pre-lockdown)
12/10/21	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & SOCIAL
09/11/21	A.W.C @ 55, CELEBRATE OUR ANNIVERSARY with your President
10/12/21	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL MEAL

As our Zoom events have proved successful social gatherings for members, we hope to extend these as extra events – probably four times a year. Further details will be advised later this year.

Tasting Notes

Members held the tenth tasting and chat, thanks to Andrew Caldwell and Zoom. The broad theme for wines selected was Eastern Europe.

As recommendations, those not partaking in March may want to seek out the following:-

- *John Badley – 2019 SAUVIGNON BLANC & PINOT GRIGIO, Puklavec & friends, STAJERSK, EASTERN SLOVENIA* 12%. With both the CoOp and Wimbledon Wine Cellars blowing out by having zero E.European wines, Waitrose came up trumps. This winery was founded in 1934 and is a family owned vineyard. The grapes are hand-picked and the wine is bottled at the winery. Dry, apple, elderflower and freshly mown grass aromas, led to an opulent citrus fruity palate. Not too acidic either. Well worth a try to have something different; refreshing during Spring and Summer and the price is very competitive. Waitrose £8.79 now reduced to £6.59
- *Andrew Caldwell – Gill Caldwell – a] 2016 JUHFARK, Karoly Kolonic, SOMLO, HUNGARY* 13%. On the northern shore of Lake Balaton (central Europe's largest lake) there are a series of conical hills of volcanic origin. The largest of these stands out all on its own at Somló (pronounced *shomlo*). Basalt-based soil here produces Hungary's finest full dry whites. Karoly Kolonic's small estate makes outstanding examples, spicy, fiery, full of flavour and capable of developing well over a decade. Described as "*With the richness and generous full, dry flavour of good Meursault*", this white, made from the rare Juhfark (meaning "sheep's tail") grape, was quite rich and full, with some freshness but subtle flavours. Went well with food but lovely on its own. The Wine Society £13.50
- *b] 2016 KEKFRANKOS RESERVE, Heumann, VILLANY, PANNON, SOUTHERN HUNGARY* 14.5%. Villany is one of Hungary's finest regions for red wines. Kékfrankos (aka blaufränkisch) is here described as "*Rich, warming and generous on nose and palate, brimming with dense dark cherry, plums and sweet cedar, with ripe yet structured tannins.*". We found this red to be medium-bodied, with subtle dark fruits and tannins; very drinkable on its own, but also good with food. The Wine Society £15.50
- *Les Charles – 2019 TOKAJI DRY, Chateau Dereszla, TOKAJ, N.E. HUNGARY* 12%. Crafted from a blend of three white varieties - 85% Furmint, 10% Hárslevelű and 5% Kabar. A full scale modernisation of the winery began in 2008, a slow transformation, bringing them up to speed with the world's best producers. Complex, this steely mineral-fresh white is a cracking aperitif. Virgin Wines £13.99
- *Ken Claydon – 2019 DRY FURMINT, Patricius, TOKAJI-HEGYALJA, HUNGARY* 12.5%. Protected denomination of origin. Fresh and light white with walnut, almond and mint aromas. Orchard fruit and quince flavours with hints of honey. Complex with a quite a long finish. Waitrose, was £9.99, now £8.99. *Also tasted by DW.*
- *Susie Cooper – 2019 PINOT NOIR 'BLUEPRINT', Waitrose selection, DEALU MARE, ROMANIA* 13.5%. Unhelpful Sainsbury's lost custom here; Waitrose though was very helpful. This Pinot Noir is a fresh wine, full of cherry and raspberry with hints of ripe strawberry. Lightweight with an earthy twist and a gentle sweetness. Recommended better chilled, and would agree with that – flattens out the sweetish fruit. Waitrose £5.99
- *Trevor Cunningham – 2019 FURMINT, VICARIUS, Patricius, TOKAJ, N.E. HUNGARY* 12%. Vicarius is the entry level label of Patricius Winery. Best known for making some of the world's best sweet wines, Hungarian Furmint also makes delicious dry whites. This Tokaji is finely scented with pear and herb, together with a slug of grapefruit. A dry finish. Lidl £7.99

- *John Davis – a] 2017 ROBOLLA CUVÉE SPECIALE, BIO DRY, Theotoky Winery, KERKYRA [CORFU] 11.5%*. This family-run estate is one of the oldest in Greece, yet is very switched on to tourism and modern trends. It is on all serious wine tours of the Greek islands, producing some top Corfu wines and excellent olives. Located at Ropa Valley at the centre of the island, 17 km from Corfu Town, it comprises more than 300 acres, much of it covered by pine trees. It is the most fertile area of the island. The Estate is one of the most ecological and peaceful spots on Corfu. 7 hectares (15 acres) are put to vines. Wine-tasting with accompanying food is in the old cellars, flanked by rows of barrels and bottles *sur-latte*. Crystal-pale shade, excellent clarity. Perfume quite complex, mineral notes dominate initially, subsequently fragrant primrose, jasmine and herbs. The palate is rich and well-structured, with refreshing acidity and freshness. €9.00. Also bought the 2015 Cuvee (12%) which has 10% local grape, Kakotrigis. Beautiful bright gold. Elegant nose with subtle white flowers that open with aeration. In the mouth, the wine is precise, bright but also rich, with those white flowers and white peach. The finish is long, full-bodied with a touch of salinity. €12.00
- *b] 2009 TOKAJI ASZU 5 PUTTONYOS, Royal Tokaji, TOKAJ, N.E. HUNGARY 11%*. This dessert wine has been famous since the 17th c., from vines planted in volcanic soil. The hot summers and foggy autumns help produce this nectar. 5 putt used to refer to the volume of naturally sweet juice collected from harvested grapes, but now signifies the degrees of sweetness. The 2009 vintage is super-ripe yet gives abundant acidity. Like the best Sauternes, good Tokaji rarely becomes too old, and this has years ahead before it reaches its plateau. Honeyed ripe peach and apricot nose; palate vibrant with that cutting acidity calming the nectar. Perfect. £32.00 per half litre.
- *Keith Eamer & Maggie Eamer – 2017 MAVRUD HERITAGE “M”, Via Vinera, PLOVDIV, BULGARIA 13.5%*. Via Vinera Winery was established in 2018 within Northern Thrace as a new brand under the Karabunar banner. Mavrud is a grape native to Bulgaria producing full-bodied reds and this is a prime example, with fresh juicy black cherry, blackcurrant and truffle notes, backed up with a savoury hint of pepper. Wine Society £8.95
- *Margaret Fox - 2019 MERLOT, Paris Street, TRANSYLVANIA, ROMANIA, 14%*. This silky, fruit-laden Merlot is romantically named after a famous boulevard in a bohemian part of Bucharest, often referred to as Little Paris. It's made from hand-picked grapes grown in the vineyards of Muntenia, north of the Danube in Transylvania. Once part of Hungary and the Ottoman empire, Transylvania became part of Romania in 1918. Ripe damson and Victoria plum aromas. Juicy fleshy red fruit, soft tannins – benefits from airing. Laithwaites (Sunday Times Wine Club/Direct Wines) £8.99
- *Jenny Heald – 2019 CABERNET SAUVIGNON / MERLOT, Puklavek & friends, TIKVES, REP. of MACEDONIA 13.5%*. From a state-of-the-art winery in overlooked Slovenia, this is the red cousin of JB's wine. Dark ripe fruit but for me lacks depth. Waitrose £8.79, but on offer at £6.59 until 4th May.
- *Tim Jones – 2019 PINOT GRIGIO/FURMINT/RASKI RIESLING/GEWURZ., Dveri Pax, MARIBOR, N.E. SLOVENIA 12%*. The foothills of the mountains around Maribor in north-east Slovenia have long been a source of brilliant white wines. The Benedictine monks from Admont Abbey, across the border from Graz in Austria, have been producing wine in today's Slovenia since 1139. The name derives from the Slovenian for door (*dveri*) and the Latin word for peace (*pax*). When Slovenia regained independence, they were able to reclaim and rebuild their old vineyards from 2001 onwards, investing considerable amounts of effort and

money because the monks take an enviably long-term view and have good resources. A spanking new cellar was completed in 2007. The estate is 320 hectares in size with 73 of those currently under vine. Very dry yet full of character and THOROUGHLY RECOMMENDED. Wine Society £9.95

- *Maria Politsos – 2019 PINOT GRIGIO, Hilltop Winery, NESZMELY, UPPER PANNON, NORTHERN HUNGARY* 12%. 85% Pinot Grigio, 15% Fetească Regală from vineyards overlooking the Danube. Fresh fruit aromas of tangerine and lime. Marks & Spencer £7.95, but currently sold out.
- *Nicky Rass – 2020 SAUVIGNON BLANC, Haraszthy, ETEK-BUDA, UPPER PANNON, NORTHERN HUNGARY* 13%. From vineyards west of Budapest, this is a classic Sauvignon - less exuberant than the New Zealand style, with great purity of aroma and flavour. Expressive guava, passionfruit, gooseberry and asparagus on the nose, before the gooseberry takes over on the palate. A lot of sauvignon blanc is competent, yet dull, but this example has a lemon peel lift to set it apart from the pack. Lidl £7.99
- *Angela Roach – 2018 GRASEVINA DE GOTHO, Kutjevo, SLAVONIJA, CROATIA* 14.5%. Graševina – queen of white grapes in Croatia. Estate has 800 hectares under vine, but this prize-winner comes from its oldest vines in the Vetovo appellation which has a special microclimate. Harvested later than most vintages, this had a honeyed shade with a serious, complex aroma of honey, pear, spice and quince. Rich, intense palate with peach and apple. Great length with good binding acidity. A Decanter Platinum 97-pointer [in 2020], the 2018 was available at Laithwaites for £17.99, but unsurprisingly sold out. 2020 now sold at £10.79 when part of a mixed 12/1 case.
- *Geoff Salter & Kathy Salter – 2019 PINOT NOIR, Sorcova, BANAT, ROMANIA* 12.5%. In Jane MacQuitty's Top 100 Summer Wines, and a favourite of Olly Smith. Light bodied but good fruit – raspberry, red plum and spiced cherries. Far better than Waitrose own label Romanian P.N. Was £7.99, now £6.39 until 4th May.
- *Roger Sanbrook – 2018 FETEASCA NEAGRA, La Umbra, DEALU MARE, ROMANIA* 13.5%. The nose was of redcurrants and blackberries with a hint of spice. It was dark, fairly full-bodied with good red berry fruit, and good length with the spice on the nose picked up again in the aftertaste. The grape is an old indigenous Romanian one which has apparently been rediscovered. It was certainly very enjoyable and one I would certainly buy again. I am not sure it quite matches the description I found on a Romanian website: "*Vin La Umbra Feteasca Neagra 0.75L is more than a drink suitable for a romantic dinner. It is a liqueur with countless benefits and it is worth enjoying even daily.*" The wine is produced by Halewood part of the Alexandrion Group. Bought from Waitrose at £6.99
- *Nick Seymour – 2016 PINOT NOIR, BEN'S RESERVE, Stapleton & Springer, MORAVIA, CZECH REPUBLIC* 14%. Moravia, with roughly 95 percent of the nation's vine plantings, is the engine-room of the Czech Republic's wine industry. The centre of intensively farmed bulk-wine production is also showing great promise as a producer of quality wines. This is largely thanks to its cool climate. S & S are starting to create some really lovely Pinot Noirs that are worth of some attention. Ben's Reserve is a delightfully fruity Pinot Noir with a hint of coffee that is ideally suited to venison. Full bodied. £17 from Nysa Wines, Earlsfield, though quoted by Wine Searcher at £30.00 retail (Vinterest).
- *Doug Stoneham – a] 2019 RKATSITELLI QVEVRIS, Tbilvino, GEORGIA* 12%. Its name comes from the Qvevri, a traditional clay pot that's used to ferment wine in Georgia. Rkatsiteli is one of the oldest grapes in the world, traditional to Georgia. In this amber wine, you'll find

- notes of apricot and pear. I found it needed a bit of time to open up, but once it did it was good. Not sure I'd buy it again at that price though. Majestic £14.00, £12 for mixed case.
- **b] 2019 PINOT NOIR, INCANTA, Cramele Recas, ROMANIA** 12.5%. According to the text, this Pinot is *deliciously fresh and juicy. Full of black cherry, raspberry and cinnamon. It's a wonderfully fruity, light and approachable Pinot Noir.* Not sure I'd go that far, but it's very pleasant and pretty good value @ £8.00 (£6 per bottle if you buy a mixed case from Majestic, but 2019 sold out – now 2020).
 - **c] 2017 TOKAJI LATE HARVEST Royal Tokaji, TOKAJ, N.E. HUNGARY** 11.5%. Haven't tried it yet but, according to the bottle, pale green-gold colour. *The nose is more delicate than many a Tokaji, with aromas of ripe peach, exotic fruit and blossom. Moderate palate weight, with a fine balance of intense sweetness and acidic lift. Pair with sweet fruit tarts, baklava, or ripe blue cheese.* Majestic £13 (50cl bottle) - £11 when mixed.
 - **Dave Wagner –2019 DRY FURMINT, Patricius, TOKAJI-HEGYALJA, HUNGARY** 12.5%. Patricius is one of the top producers of dry Furmint. Smooth, tree-fruits with floral overtones, full bodied yet quite delicate. Absolutely delicious. Bargain of the decade from Waitrose. Currently £8.99

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

Some annual subscriptions for 2020/21 are still outstanding. If you haven't paid, or aren't sure, please get in touch.

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Comments can be posted on the Association of Wine Cellarmen Facebook page.